

A Seasonable
DISCOURSE,
SHEWING,
That it is the **INTEREST**
OF BOTH
PAPISTS & PROTESTANTS,
To Serve their **MAJESTIES** in the
Present War
AGAINST
FRANCE.

Licensed, May 15th, 1689.

J. Fraser.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *Richard Baldwin*, next the *Black Bull* in
the *Old Bayly*. M D C LXXXIX.

A. J. St. George's

DISCOURSE

ON THE
INTERIOR

CHARACTERISTICS
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CHARACTERISTICS

Shall not this be the day of his coming? for he will not tarry.

He will come as a thief in the night, in which ye shall not expect him.

For they shall say, See, there is no thief; but he cometh in the night.

Yea, verily I say unto you, As the thief cometh in, he findeth

no strength; but he cometh where he will, and taketh what he findeth.

A

Paradox in Season:

O R,

Good News

BOTH TO

Roman Catholicks and Protestants.



HE late great and stupendious Revolution in the State of *Great Britain*, is the Astonishment of the present Age; and will be the Wonder of the next: The generality of Men were (no doubt) strangely surprized at so swift and dexterous a Change of our *English* Scenes, every one gazing on it as a Prodigy, but with different Sentiments and Passions, according to their various Interests, Prepossessions and Prejudices; some looking on it with Delight, others with Horror, but all with Admiration, as not being acquainted with the hidden Springs and original Wheels which gave the first Birth to this unparalleled Alteration of our Affairs: Nay, most Men are yet to seek, though many are very curious and

inquisitive in diving into the depth of this Profound MYSTERY : It is not my province or design (were I able) to Unravel the Secret ; for I ever was of opinion, that the *Arcana Imperii* ought to be Veild, and not exposed to the Eyes of the Vulgar, but like the Delphick Oracles, they should be wrapt up in *Ænigmatis Clouds*.

make such Remarks and Observations on the present Posture of Affairs, as may conduce to the Satisfaction of all Honest and Well-meaning Christians of what Perswasion soever, my Aim being to Compose and Settle (as far as in me lies) the precipitate Thoughts of rash and unthinking Men, who at this time seem to be fermented into a restless Concern for they know not what, and to be as it were Haggid with a kind of State-Bigotism, they Dream Waking, and Groan under a Phantastick Load of Chimera's, meer Vapour railed from their own crude and indigested Thoughts.

And because I would not have this Discourse swell to too great a bulk, so as to discourage the Reader at first sight, I will chuse for my Subject the present War that is declared between *England* and *France* ; and the better to comply with my Title, I will Address my self first to *Roman Catholicks*, and the rather, because they seem moste to be dissatisfied at the present Transactions in *Europe*.

Those that are conversant in the History of Christendom, cannot but know, that the Kings of *France* first received the Title of *MAHIA HERIS PLANI* from the Bishps of *Amiens* on the account of their signal and eminent Services they had done to that State, and the whole *Western Church*, by strenuous

By opposing the Incursions of the *Goths* and *Pandals*,
 who like a mighty Torrent were over-running all
 Christendom; so that had it not been for the match-
 less Valour of the *French* Armies, all *Italy* itself was
 near lost: Hence also they were stiled *Eldest Sons of*
the Church: and the *Roman* Pontiffs graced them
 with many Favours and Priviledges, beyond other
 Princes, as Acknowledgments of their Merit. Thus
 flourish'd that Crown for many Centuries, the Scourge
 of *Infidels*, Patron of the Church, Envy of Neigh-
 bouring Nations, and Darling of the Chief Bishop:—
 but of later Years the Case is alter'd, the Tide turn'd,
 and that glorious Title beforementioned, seems al-
 most as fit for the *Grand Seignour*, as for him who
 now possesses it; that Eldest Son of the Church is
 now become *Rebellious*, that Patron is turn'd *Per-
 secutor*, that *Enemy of Infidels* now shakes hands with
 them, that *Darling* is now deservedly out of Favour
 not only with the Pope, but almost with all *Chris-
 tendom*: His Confederacy with the *Turks*, his breaking
 the Treaty of *Ninevehen*, his ill-tim'd Incursions into the
 Empire, then actually engaged in a War with the *Or-
 tmanns*, his injurious Dealing with the Duke of *Bar-
 rain*, the *Elector Palatine*, the Prince of *Orange*, in
 fine, his accumulated *Tyrannies*, Oppressions and Per-
 secutions, his repeated *Affronts* and *Oppositions* to
 the Pope, and Interest of the *Roman Church*, have
 render'd him justly *Odious* in the sight of all honest
 Men of that Communion, and have stirred up most
 of the Princes and States in *Europe* to make open
 War against him; among whom his present Majesty
 King *William* has been pleased to interest himself, ha-
 ving published a *Declaration of War* against *France*
 the 11th of this instant *May 1689*, upon this *solemn*
stolne *and* *unlawfull* *to* *re-establish* *the* *old* *to* *alway*
new *monumH*

I believe all men of sense among the *Catholicks* are satisfied as to the Justice of this War; even the very Subjects of *France* it self wish for a delivery from the present Bondage and Slavery they groan under: therefore I need not enlarge upon that Theme, only it may be presumed, that some over-zealous Members of that Communion, not rightly understanding the Consequences of the general Preparations and Approaches which are every - where making against *France*, and not relishing well the Declaration of a Protestant King against a Crown and Kingdom in Communion with the *Roman Church*; I say, they may be disgusted, and out of pure Zeal may imagine that the Interest of the Church will be weakned, if so considerable a Member of it, as *France* is, should be crush'd (as in all likelihood it will) by so many potent Adversaries. But pray, *Gentlemen*, give me leave to Expostulate a little with you; Do you think the *Emperour of Germany* comes short of you in his Zeal for the *Catholic Religion*? Is not the King of *Spain* as much Devoted to the Interest of the Church, as any of your Communion? And yet these are both joynly engaged against the King of *France*. Or, what say you to the Pope himself, who is esteemed the Father of the Church? You are sensible how far he is concerned in abetting and encouraging the present War against *France*; He no doubt has in many repeated instances found that the Grandeur of the *French Crown* cannot consist with the Church's Interest: Witness the Decrees of some late Assemblies and Convocations of the *French Clergy*, when they voted against several established Doctrines of the *Roman Church*, and even against Infallibility itself, being influenced by the Promises and Threatnings, the Insinuations and Commands of the Great Disturber of *Christendom*, whose

Humors

Humors and Caprichio's must over-rule all Law and Justice; and a *Sic Volo, sic Fabo*, must supercede the very Pandects of the Church, thus sacrificing all things both Humane and Sacred to his own exorbitant Ambition. Can you imagine now that the Pope does not consult the common Good of *Christendom*, in being so forward to quell the monstrous Pride of *France*? In my Opinion you ought to acquiesce to his Conduct in this, as well as you do in other cases of this nature.

Besides it is well known, that the House of *Austria* (of which the *German* Emperours and Kings of *Spain* are most illustrious Branches) have for these two last Centuries at least, been the main Support not only of the Papacy, but of the whole *Western Church*; the one being the Bulwark of *Christendom* against the *Turks*, the other bravely stemming the Tides of *Moorish* Invasions. Look but into the present *Turkish* War, with what a formidable Army did the *Ottomans* Invest the Imperial City *Vienna*, and how bravely were they Repulsed? For how many Years has the *German* Eagle pursued them through all their Nests in *Hungary*? With what indefatigable Pains has she broke through the Toils of War? And now Triumphantlly Displays her Wings within the Verge of the *Ottoman* Court! And if she now, after all these Grand Fatigues, do Crop the Unprofitable *Lilly*, will you repine? A *Lilly* grown to such a Height and Rankness, as with its Baneful Shaddow to destroy the Neighbouring Flowers, and to become a general Annoyance in the Garden of *Europe*.

To conclude, if you understand and value the True Interest of the *Church*, and prefer the common Good of *Christendom* to your own private Inclinations and Profits, if you are not byass'd with some fond Compassion or Self-love, you cannot but approve of what has been said; since what you loose in the Pound, you gain

in the Hundreds, and by the Fifth of France all the
 Standardes, and recovere it ancient Lustre and Glory,
 which was neare Eclips'd by the Interposition of this
 growing Meteor. In short, if I understand Right, the
 Cards are now managed by the best Gamesters in the
 world, I mean of your own side: And I question not, but
 they know how to nick the Advantage of this juncture,
 and Shuffle them with that dexterity, as, let Fortune cut
 where she pleases, the best Hand shall fall to the *Church*,
 who, no doubt, will improve it so well that, *Ni fru-
 stra Augurium vani docuere Parentes*, she will not only
 maintain her newly recover'd Ground in *Hungary*
 and elsewhere, but in all probability may from the re-
 sult of this League gather such strength, as will gain
 her more footing than she has lost these hundred Years
 before.

And now according to my promised Method, I am
 obliged to shew the *Protestants*, how they are like to
 be Gainers by this War, which seems to me an easie
 task: since by the same proportion that *Roman Catho-
 licks* may promise to themselves a more general and
 firm Establishment of their Church from the success of
 the *Confederated Catholick Princes* against *France*, by
 the same may the *Protestants* assure themselves of a
 more flourishing and prosperous State of their Religion
 from the success of the *Confederated Protestant Princes*:
 Neither will these different Religions interefere, or ob-
 strue one another, the Interests of State being abstrac-
 ted from those of Religion, where divers Nations of
 severall Religions are united in a League against one com-
 mon Enemy, that each particulaire Religion at the same
 time is protected by the State where it is professed. To
 speak more plainly, *France* is deservedly esteem'd
 the common Enemy to the general Interests both of
Roman Catholicks and *Protestants*; therefore both Catho-
 lick

ick and Protestant Princes and States are united against her. Now where the Catholic Religion is established, there will its Interest also be strengthened by the Downfall of France, as in Italy, Germany, Spain, &c. by the same rule; where the Protestant Religion is settled, there also will it be more strongly confirmed by the Ruine of the Common Spoiler; as in England, Holland, Brandenburg, Saxony, &c. They all fight *Pro Aris & Focis*, for Religion and Property, and each Particular will have a proportionable share in the succets. But to draw my Discourse toward a Period, let us consider our own Nation, and the present Circumstances it lies under.

Before the late Revolution in this Government, the King of France seemed to maintain a fair Correspondence with the Crown of England; and though the French Faction were always plotting and contriving one Mischief or other against this Nation; yet their Intrigues were managed with a great deal of secrecy; all their Machinations were cover'd with the mask of Friendship; and as we use to say, they put a good face on a bad matter: But since King *James* Deserte'd the Kingdom, they found there was no more infinuating in the English Court, they could not any longer Cajoled us with specious Pretences, and smile in our Faces whilst they cut our Throats; therefore they were resolv'd to lay aside the Vizard, and appear in their own Colours; and taking advantage of King *James* his Application to the French Court, under pretence of Assisting him, they commit all acts of Hostility against us by Sea and Land, Seizing our Ships, Imprisoning the English, Invading Ireland, and designing to Land with a great Army in England also; if not prevented by the hearty and unanimous Revolution of the Subjects of this Nation, to stand by one another against this Troubler of the World. To obviate this approaching Danger, His Majesty King *William* has been pleased to declare open War against France, as I have already said, and is making all Preparations requisite to carry it on: Now there are a sort of People, who out of Tenderness to King *James*, may endeavour to posses themselves and others with an opinion, that if they should take up Arms against the French, they should fight against him who was once their Sovereign, since they are made to believe, that the late Conquest of Ireland by the French Forces, is nothing else but the Restoring King *James* to his Right in that Kingdom; and after the same manner do they conceive of the designed Invasion of this our Country by the French. But they seem to lie under a great mistake, since it is plain by their Conduct in Ireland, that the French King does but abuse the Trust which King *James* reposes in him, and under the pretext of Assisting and Restoring him, has render'd himself Absolute Master of that Nation: This is apparent from matter of Fact, since Monsieur *d'Avoue* rules the baill there, placing and displacing whom he pleases in Military and

Civil Employments, only for a band they make use of King *James* his Name, but assume all the Power and Authority to themselves. And no question but the case would be the same, if ever they should Land in *England*. Now it is possible for a man to have an affection for King *James*, and yet at the same time not to be willing to espouse the Interest of a Present Enemy, by being gul'd into a belief that it is King *James* his Quarrel. I believe many men of generous Tempers, look on King *James* his Misfortunes, with a great deal of Compassion, who at the same time would abhor that such a Compassion should make them betray their Country to the *French* King : Besides, we are obliged to oppose the *French* King, as our Nation is concerned in the general League against that Ambitious Monarch, a League altogether previous to the Misfortunes of King *James*, a League into which 'tis probable he himself would have enter'd, had he tarried longer in the Nation.

In short, I see no other way to avoid inevitable Slavery, than by carrying on this War with all Vigor and Resolution, like true *English*-men, so shall we secure our Liberties and Properties, our Religion and Laws, our Lives and Estates, and whatsoever is dear to us in this World, all which we are in danger to loose if the *French* once prevail in this Nation : Then we shall be reduced to Poverty and Misery, then we shall be Pill'd and Poll'd, Taxt and Fleec'd, trampled on and abused by our new Lords and Masters the *French*, whereas if we heartily unite our Forces against them, we shall not only escape all these Tragical Consequences, but also have a share in the Conquest of that Kingdom, and so recover the Glory of our Renowned Ancestors.

F I N I S.

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